

## Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /115 W

----- 112500

R 272100Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7946

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1538

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, ELAB

SUBJ: LABOR LEADERS RECEIVE PRISON TERMS

REF: SANTIAGO A-73

1. SUMMARY. SANTIAGO PRESS MARCH 23 REPORTED ARICA MILITARY TRIBUNAL SENTENCED EIGHT CONSTRUCTION WORKERS, SEVERAL OF THEM LOCAL UNION LEADERS, TO PRISON TERMS OF 541 DAYS FOR "PARALYZING WORK" AND "BOYCOTTING PRODUCTION" ON LOCAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT. AT SAME TIME TRIBUNAL ORDERED SUSPENSION FROM WORK OF TWO OTHER WORKERS INVOLVED IN SAME OFFENSE. ARICA ACTION CLIMAXES PRESSURES APPLIED TO ORGANIZED LABOR WHICH HAVE CREATED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN IN MOVEMENT THAT JUNTA POLICY MAY BE HARDENING AND THAT PRESENT PATERNALISTIC TOLERANCE OF ORGANIZED LABOR MAY BE GIVING WAY. ACTIONS PRODUCING ADVERSE EFFECTS AND RELUCTANCE AMONG LEADERS TO ENGAGE IN UNION ACTIVITIES. END SUMMARY.

2. EIGHT WORKERS (SEVERAL OF THEM REPORTED TO US AS "LOCAL UNION LEADERS") WERE REPORTED BY SANTIAGO PRESS TO HAVE BEEN SENTENCED TO 541 DAY PRISON TERMS FOR HAVING PROVOKED A STRIKE ON AN ARICA CONSTRUCTION PROJECT. STORIES INDICATE THAT GROUP WAS TRIED AND SENTENCED AFTER TRIAL OF THREE HOUSE BY MILITARY TRIBUNAL (CONSEJO DE GUERRA) FOR VIOLATION OF ARTICLE II OF INTERNAL SECURITY LAW FOR DECLARING A STRIKE TO "PROMOTE HIGHER WAGES." TWO OTHER WORKERS OF SAME FIRM WERE REPORTED SUSPENDED FROM THEIR

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WORK FOR APPARENTLY HAVING BEEN INVOLVED SAME INCIDENT. REPORTS

GIVE NO DATES FOR EITHER ALLEGED OFFENSE OR TRIAL.

3. THIS INCIDENT IS APPARENTLY NOT FIRST OCCASION OF DISCIPLINE FOR ATTEMPTS TO INCITE WORK STOPPAGES. FEB 1 PRESS REPORTED CASE OF PUNTA ARENAS LEADER OF SEAMENS UNION (ALSO LEADER IN NATIONAL FEDERATION OF SEAMEN), WHO WAS SCHEDULED FOR TRIAL BEFORE MILITARY TRIBUNAL ON CHARGES OF "SABOTAGE" FOR ALLEGED ATTEMPT PROVOKE STRIKE ABOARD CHILEAN MERCHANT VESSEL. WE HAVE NO SUBSEQUENT REPORT THAT THIS TRIAL TOOK PLACE.

4. OTHER INCIDENTS HAVE OCCURRED IN RECENT WEEKS WHICH HAVE PRODUCED OPEN CONCERN AMONG NATIONAL LEVEL LABOR LEADERS. AMONG THESE ARE FOLLOWING:

-. LATE IN FEBRUARY, GILBERTO VASQUEZ TRUJILLO, PRES NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS, WAS DISMISSED AFTER 22 YEARS SERVICE WITH POST OFFICE. REASONS FOR DISMISSAL GIVEN WERE VIOLATION PROVISIONS NEW LABOR DECREES PROHIBITING UNION MEETINGS DURING WORK TIME OR WITHOUT PREVIOUS PERMISSION. TO DATE NO CHARGES FILED AGAINST VASQUEZ. HE CLAIMS (AND OTHER LEADERS SUPPORT) THAT HE WAS INVOLVED IN SLACK TIME DISCUSSION AT THE WATER COOLER WITH THREE OTHER WORKERS. VASQUEZ IS A CENISTA RADICAL (PARTY WAS MINOR NON-MARXIST MEMBER OF UP).

B. PEDRO ARAYA DIAZ-VALDES, PDC, PRES NATIONAL UNION OF WORKERS AND EMPLOYEES LAN CHILE (AIRLINE), WAS TOLD BY LAN MANAGER TO RESIGN HIS UNION POSITION OR BE FIRED FROM HIS JOB. REASON GIVEN WAS SPEECH BY ARAYA AT INVITATION OF MANAGEMENT AT COMPANY-SPONSORED ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY OF WORKERS. ARAYA CLAIMS SPEECH WAS "MILD" AND CONTAINED NOTHING CONSIDERED BY WORKERS AS OFFENSIVE TO MANAGEMENT. ARAYA RESIGNED HIS UNION POSITION MAR 22.

C. ARTURO VELASQUEZ, PRES UNION OF WORKERS OF "CIA PRODUCTORA DE ACEITE" (COOKING OIL MANUFACTURER), WAS ARRESTED ON FEB 21 OR 22 SHORTLY BEFORE SCHEDULED DEPARTURE TO U.S. ON INVITATION TO AIFLD- SPONSORED CHILEAN SEMINAR AT FRONT ROYAL, VA. HE WAS CONFINED UNTIL MAR 22. HE REFUSED TO DISCUSS CONFINEMENT WITH AIFLD/CHILE PERSONNEL OR HIS COLLEAGUES. VELASQUEZ IS CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATE.

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D. WASHINGTON SEPULVEDA FLORES, PDC, PRES NATIONAL FEDERATION HEALTH WORKERS - FENATS (ABOUT 65 THOUSAND MEMBERS), HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY ARRESTED AND ON ONE OCCASION CONFINED THREE NIGHTS. LAST ARREST OCCURRED AS HE WAS PREPARING BOARD PLANE FOR U.S. FOR AIFLD-SPONSORED SEMINAR (SAME AS VELASQUEZ). HE IS AT PRESENT REQUIRED TO REPORT IN TO CARABINEROS EACH FRIDAY AND HAS BEEN TOLD NOT TO LEAVE CHILE (DETAILED ACCOUNT THIS CASE IN

MEMCON ATTACHED REPAIR).

5. COMMENT. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY OTHER ARRESTS, PRESSURES AND  
DISMISSALS OF LESSER L  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Concepts:** CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, PENAL SYSTEM, PRESS COMMENTS, WAGES, JUNTA, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, ARRESTS, BOYCOTTS, LABOR STRIKES, LABOR OBJECTIVES  
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